

Attorney Docket: 4925-200RCE

Serial No.: 10/034,550

Amdt. dated November 4, 2004

RCE Submission/Reply to Final Rejection dated May 5, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Final Rejection mailed May 5, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Before entry of the present amendment, Claims 2-11, 16-17, and 34-40 were pending, with Claim 34 being in independent form, and Claims 39-40 being withdrawn by the Examiner. The present amendment amends independent Claim 34, cancels Claims 39-40 without prejudice, and adds Claims 41-43, with newly added Claim 41 being in independent form. Newly added Claims 41-43 do not constitute new matter, and support for Claims 41-42 can be found at least in FIGS. 2(a)-(e) and 3(a)-(c) and their accompanying description at page 13, line 33, to page 15, line 34, of the originally filed specification, while support for Claim 43 can be found at least in FIG. 3(b) and its accompanying description at lines 4-25 of page 16 in the originally filed specification. After entry of the present amendment, Claims 2-11, 16-17, 34-38, and 41-43 will be pending, with Claims 34 and 41 being in independent form.

In ¶1 of the Final Rejection, independent Claim 34, as well as Claims 2, 4-10, 16-18, and 35-38 depending therefrom, were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Japanese App. Ser. No. 2000-176964 (hereinafter referred to as "the '964 application") in view of the schematic web page entitled "What is injection molding?" (hereinafter referred to as "the schematic web page") and Japanese Pat. Ser. No. 5050433 (hereinafter referred to as "the '433 patent"). In ¶2 of the Final Rejection, dependent Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over the '964 application, the schematic web page, the '433 patent, and *Bompard* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,484,642; hereinafter referred to as "the '642 patent").

In response, independent Claim 34 has been amended to recite "wherein said reinforcing core material is preliminarily formed before the first and second resin surface layers are injected molded on the reinforcing core material". By preliminarily forming the reinforcing core material before injecting the resin surface layers, the thickness of the casting part may be reduced (if desired) and the strength thereof is maintained. The cited prior art neither teaches nor suggests this point.

At least because the cited prior art neither teaches nor suggests a "reinforcing core material [which] is preliminarily formed before the first and second resin surface layers are injected molded on the reinforcing core material", and amended independent Claim 34 recites such a

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limitation, amended Claim 34 is patentable over the cited prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. At least through their dependence on amended independent Claim 34, dependent Claims 2-10, 16-18, and 35-38 are also believed to be patentable over the cited prior art. Withdrawal of their rejection is also respectfully requested.

Newly added independent Claim 41 recites a casing for a portable electronic device comprising a core preform of a predetermined shape, which is embedded between two resin surface layers which are injection molded onto opposite sides of the core preform, thereby strengthening the structural integrity of the casing. Furthermore, the core preform is impregnated with thermoplastic resin before the resin surface layers are injected molded onto it, which integrates the surface layer and the core preform, thereby providing a firm bond. One of the resin surface layers has one or more structural members extending therefrom, which structural members were also formed by the injection molding which formed the resin surface layer from which it extends. Being formed from the same mold as the resin layer, the structural member is also integrated with, and thereby firmly bonded to, the core preform.

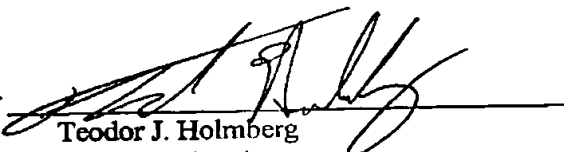
At least because the prior art neither teaches nor suggests such a casing, newly added Claim 41 is patentable over the prior art, and its allowance is respectfully requested. Likewise, at least through their dependence from Claim 41, newly added dependent Claims 42-43 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Based at least on the foregoing, allowance of all presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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